

"No Justification for any Branch of Power to Abandon Constitutional Responsibility"

President Talabani Visits H.E. Alhakim



President Talabani visited H.E. Sayed Abdul Aziz Alhakim, ISCI President and UIA leader, in Tehran, Iran, on June 5, 2009. President Talabani's visit was to check on H.E. Alhakim's health and to see how he was recovering.

ISCI Position on Questioning of Executive Officials

*In the Name of Allah the Merciful the
Compassionate*

The Iraqi Parliament is witnessing a new practice of questioning executive officials, which is at the core of the Council of Representatives' (CoR) duties. It is an essential element of the responsibilities of the representatives and one that cannot be taken lightly. This is because it is one of the clearest mechanisms for oversight that the members must follow after having sworn to abide by the Constitution and fulfill their duties and their roles in the legislative process.

Oversight of the executive performance or practice through questioning retains the balance between the legislative and executive powers and protects public funds and secures and guards public service from abuse. It also reassures citizens and gives incentives for officials for superior performance and respect for the law. Therefore, questioning is in the best interest of the government, country, citizens, and officials. This can be used

for other purposes or exploited to harm the democratic system or the executive or legislative powers or distort the image of a certain entity or side. If it is not practiced with its proper rules and conditions and in a neutral and unbiased way, far from revenge or political exploitation, then it will become a harmful practice that will cause damage to the country, citizens, officials, and the democratic system.

ISCI does not see justification for any power—legislative, executive, or judicial—to abandon its constitutional responsibility, and calls on the MPs in the CoR to carry out their responsibilities in a faithful, honest, and transparent way, without taking advantage and without a spirit of revenge, so that the position and integrity of the CoR is not compromised.

ISCI believes that the sustentation of the democratic process and its integrity and continuity require that all sides of the government take responsibility for their specialties and duties with complete independence and a level of neutrality, in accordance with the law and constitution.

As ISCI displays its full readiness to have its executive officials in the government present their work for questioning and clarification at a time determined by the Presidency of the CoR, it urges all Parliamentary blocs to take the initiative and treat this issue with a courageous nationalistic spirit, pushing their executive officials to compete on this stage. We are all indebted to the great people of this nation for having done what was required of them by choosing their representatives and forming the national unity government. It is up to us all, as representatives and officials, to be loyal and faithful to these great people.

-ISCI
May 24, 2009

H.E. Ammar Alhakim Meets With PC Members



With the attendance of Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi and Finance Minister Baker Jaber Alzubaidi, H.E. Ammar Alhakim, deputy of the ISCI leader, met with the Provincial Council members of the Shaheed Al-Mihrab Movement on June 8, 2009 in the special bureau of H.E. Alhakim, ISCI president and UIA leader. In the meeting, many issues were discussed, particularly the latest developments in the Iraq.

H.E. Ammar Alhakim advised the Provincial Council members of the Shaheed Al-Mihrab Movement to work diligently for the sake of Iraqi people and to provide the best services to them. Also, he urged them to attend the Provincial Council's meetings in order to have full participation in the discussions presented there, and he stressed the importance of taking care of the people's needs.

VP Mahdi stated, in the meeting, that the Provincial Council must develop its performance and leave the old bureaucracy and routine to serve the people in order to compensate for the past decades of poverty and oppression, stressing to start immediately in implementing new projects. Also, he urged to overcome all obstacles in the way of going forward in new development in Iraq.

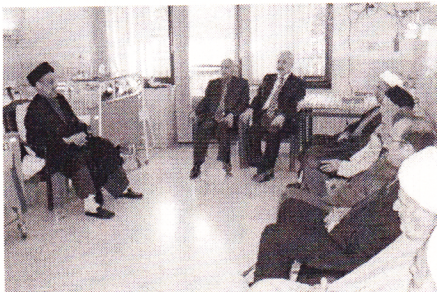
H.E. Alhakim Receives Prime Minister Almaliki



H.E. Sayed Abdul Aziz Alhakim, ISCI President and UIA leader, received Prime Minister Nouri Almaliki on May 30, 2009. PM Almaliki informed H.E. Alhakim about the current developments in Iraq, particularly in the security situation and the political process.

Both leaders stressed the importance of strengthening the United Iraqi Alliance and expanding it to deal with the challenges that Iraq is currently facing. Also, they stressed the unity of the Iraqis and the advancement of the political process.

H.E. Alhakim Receives UIA Political Committee



H.E. Sayed Abdul Aziz Alhakim, ISCI President and UIA leader received a delegation of a United Iraqi Alliance political committee on June 2, 2009.

Sheikh Homam Hamoudi, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the CoR, MP Sayed Mohammad Alhaydari, MP Ali Aladyeb, MP Sheikh Khalid Alatyah, MP Safa Alsafi, MP Hassan Alsneed, MP Sheikh Jalal Alsagher, and MP Redha Jawad Taki were among those in the delegation.

The delegation visited him to make sure that H.E. Alhakim was doing well and recovering. They discussed with him the

latest developments in the political process, and they stressed on going forward in their efforts to reform the UIA. Also, they discussed, in detail, the progress in the UIA in internal negotiations, and they all agreed on the importance of the role that the UIA has in Iraq, also stressing its expansion.

Vice President Abdul-Mahdi Meets with PM Almaliki



Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi met with PM Nouri Almaliki on June 10, 2009. Deputy PM Barham Saleh was also in attendance. During the meeting they discussed the current developments in Iraq and particularly the political, economic and security issues that are affecting Iraq. They discussed the government's plan for the oil sector and the best way in which to develop this vital sector and increase the oil production in order to cover all the reconstruction expenses and to provide vital services to all Iraqis.

Also, both VP Mahdi and PM Maliki mentioned to the important role of the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA) and the best ways to develop the UIA and make it open to all Iraqis for the interests of all.

VP Adil Abdul-Mahdi Receives U.S. Congress Delegation



Vice President Mahdi received a delegation of United States senators: Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), on

May 24, 2009. Mr. Christopher Hill attended the meeting as well. They discussed the current developments in Iraq, particularly the security, political, and economic fields, in addition to the bilateral relations and the steps to implementing the Troop Withdrawal Agreement. The VP mentioned the noticeable improvement on the political and security levels and that the democratic process is heading in the right direction, despite the difficulties. Also, building the Iraqi forces is in continuous progress.

H.E. Ammar Alhakim Visits President Talabani



H.E. Ammar Alhakim, deputy of the ISCI leader, visited President Jalal Talabani at his official office in Baghdad on May 31, 2009. Vice president Adil Abdul-Mahdi, Sheikh Alsagher, Sheikh Mohammad Almoula, Finance Minister Baker Alzubaidi, and PUK officials all attended the meeting.

President Talabani welcomed the visit and expressed his gratefulness for the visit. He wished all the best to H.E. Abdul Aziz Alhakim and prayed for him to recover. In the meeting, they discussed the latest development in the political process and the best way to activate the governmental institutions in order to build a successful democratic experience in Iraq and help in stabilizing Iraq.

ISCI Delegation Visits IIP



H.E. Ammar Alhakim, deputy of the ISCI leader, accompanied by ISCI delegation visited the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) on June 9, 2009, to congratulate Dr. Osama Altikriti, the new leader of the IIP.

In attendance were: Finance Minister Baker Jaber Alzubaidi, MP Sheik Mohammad Almoula, MP Sheikh Alsagher, MP Sheikh Hamed Muala, MP Redha Jawad Taki, MP Abdul Kareem Alnakeeb, MP Tahseen Alazawi, and Mohammad Alhashimi. From the IIP Speaker Iyad Alsamaraie, and other IIP members attended the meeting as well.

They discussed friendly bilateral relations and they stressed augmenting these relations. They discussed the new challenges that the political process is facing. Both sides announced their agreement on the evaluation to the current political scene. They also hoped that these meetings will help in solving the obstacles in the way of the political process, and they also discussed the coming national elections and the importance of Iraqi unity.

VP Mahdi Receives American and British Ambassadors



Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi received Mr. Christopher Hill, the American Ambassador to Iraq, on June 12, 2009. During the meeting they discussed the bilateral relations between Iraq and United States and the optimum way in which to bolster the relationship on all levels. Also, they talked about the Iraqi readiness to receive the whole security file in Iraq after the redeployment of the U.S. troops from all Iraqi cities by the end of this month.

Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi also received Mr. Christopher Prentiss, the United Kingdom's Ambassador to Iraq, on May 5, 2009. They discussed the bilateral relations between Iraq and the United Kingdom, as well as the training

agreement and support of the Iraqi Navy. The agreement has been signed by both Iraq and the United Kingdom.

H.E. Ammar Alhakim Contacts Kuwaiti Speaker

H.E. Ammar Alhakim, deputy of the ISCI leader, contacted Mr. Jassim Alkhorafi the Kuwaiti Speaker on June 9, 2009. H.E. exchanged ideas with the Kuwaiti Speaker on how to control the escalation between the two countries in particular the latest statements from both countries officials. They also stressed on a Iraqi-Kuwaiti strong relationship, especially after the new experience in Iraq after 2003.

H.E. Ammar Alhakim stressed on the eagerness of Iraq to build strong relations with all Arab countries based on respect and mutual interests, and to get rid of all the problems of the past. Also, he mentioned that Kuwait could play an important role in helping Iraq get out of the UN Chapter Seven in order to protect the Iraq's sovereignty and to lead to an increase in stability of the region.

Minister Alzubaidi Meets With UN Rep. Mr. Ghambri



Finance Minister Baqir Jaber Alzubaidi received Mr. Ibrahim Ghambri, The United Nations Secretary General Representative, as he is currently visiting Baghdad. The meeting discussed the issue of holding the International Compact Conference at the end of 2009, and the arrangements concerning the schedule of the conference, in which the Foreign Ministers of the world will participate.

Minister Alzubaidi also discussed the bilateral relations between Iraq and the UN and Mr. Ghambri affirmed the UN's role in

supporting Iraq in all areas that will lead to advancement in the economic field and promoting and reinforcing Iraq's place in the international community.

The Minister also called on the UN to assist Iraq in transferring the remaining 20% of Iraq's debts to form investment funds in order to help the country in reconstruction and improving the economic condition, after having removed 80% of the debts, equaling about \$140 billion. The Ambassador of Sweden in the UN, Bridgette Alani, also attended the meeting, as Sweden was a sponsor of the last International Compact Conference, joined by Dr. Na'eema Hassan Al-Qaseer, WHO Representative in Iraq.

Minister Alzubaidi Urges China to Lift Iraq's Debts



Finance Minister Alzubaidi appointed the International Financial Advisor from the British company, Lokehand, to go to The People's Republic of China from June 8-10, 2009 in order to negotiate the removal of all of Iraq's debts from China, according to the Paris Club agreement.

This occurred during Minister Alzubaidi's meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Iraq two weeks ago. The Minister asked the Ambassador to forward his wishes of increasing the removal of Iraq's debts from 80% to 100% to the Chinese leadership. The Chinese Ambassador indicated that he would convey the message to his government and that Beijing will welcome the Financial Advisor and discuss with him all sides of the bilateral agreement.

It is noteworthy to mention that Minister Alzubaidi underwent negotiations in Beijing and reached an agreement to remove 80% of Iraq's debts, about \$8.5 billion.

The Crisis of Corruption

Public Money Wasting

Reports from the International Monitoring Organizations show that wasting public money and administrative corruption caused the country huge losses in the past quarter of a century. The reasons for that are as follows:

1-Policies and Wars of the Former Regime: the cost of those policies reached over 120 B dollars. The country's budget was used up by buying war machines and equipment. Media Reports indicate that Iraq had a military might amounting to 600 war planes, 6000 tanks and over 10,000 different artillery guns and a huge number of various military equipment. The price of one Mirage was 48 million Dollars and Iraq bought 128 of them. Mig-29 price reached 30 million Dollars. All that compared to the cost of building the Salihya Housing Project of 2,350 apartments with all its services and amenities did not reach 180 million Dollars, i.e. the price of only 4 planes. All those were destroyed on the ground or in the air.

2-Iraq's losses due to the economic embargo: According to estimates by the international organizations, chapter seven resolutions and the economic embargo cost Iraq about \$200 B.

3-Oil for Food Program: The money that was stolen associated with the program of "Oil For Food" reached about 11 B dollars out of \$64 B.

4-Corruption during the time of Amb. Bremer: US Congress reports mentioned that during the time of Amb. Bremer, Iraq lost approximately 9 B dollars which was allocated for development in Iraq due to corruption practices.

5-Losses from Oil & Gas Export revenues: Due to not benefiting from oil and gas export revenues, Iraq, which is supposed to produce at least 3 million barrels a day. But because of the destruction in the oil industry infrastructure and due to not keeping up its facilities, oil exports did not reach 1,900 at the most. Iraq also burns about 600 million cubic meters of gas annually without any benefit. This means that Iraq has a loss of 50 million dollars a day in oil export. This is aside from the losses in burning the gas.

6-Oil Smuggling Losses: Judge Musa Faraj, the Chairman of the former Iraqi

Integrity Committee, in his statement last year, declared that Iraq lost 45 B dollars in smuggling crude oil and another 45 B dollars in other oil products.

7-Administrative Corruption in Iraq: In its last report, the Integrity Committee mentioned that there are about 7,000 lawsuits of administrative corruptions among ten ministries as well as other agencies accused of internal corruption. Among those, 736 cases in the ministry of Public Works, in the municipalities there are 400 cases. In the ministry of Justice there are 249 cases. In the trade ministry: 99 cases. During last year, the committee received 5,031 cases, among them 3,027 referred to the courts. These resulted in the indictment of 97 people.

The Reasons for Administrative Corruption

Information and reports indicate that there are numerous reasons behind this corruption and losses of money in Iraq. They are as follows:

1-The residues of the Former Saddam regime launch regional and local sectarian wars. Characterizing that era by carelessness as far as public money, making it the norm in the society which spread as a very serious disease in the Iraqi society.

2-Intentional Sabotage by the anti political process forces such as the Baathi gangs and others. They intentionally participated in the destruction of the economy especially the losses of oil revenues.

3-The emergence of numerous fake companies after the Change. The Iraqi ministry of Trade registered more than 20 thousand companies between the fall of the former regime and 2003. This is in addition to branches of foreign companies and other foreign office representatives. This is while only 8,374 were registered between 1946 and 2003. This huge increase in the number of companies allowed a large number of fake companies to participate in that administrative corruption in Iraq.

4-Some political parties employed the country's capabilities for their own benefits and use. This made the executive authority a bunch of party cadres putting a burden on the Iraqi budget to benefit their own party circles rather than the benefit of the country.

This also led to the covering of several corruption channels of abusing the public funds. Some of the inner political circles stepped in the way of uncovering corruption cases and losses of public funds.

5-The deterioration of the organizational and administrative infrastructure posed another form of corruption in Iraq. The lack of solid foundation of Iraqi economy allowed many loopholes, which assisted in the spreading of administrative corruption. The fact that there are numerous agencies to oversee and monitor these practices while no coordination between them is adding to the problem instead of helping solve it. There are now the Directorate of Financial monitoring, the Integrity Committee, and the General Inspection Department.

6-The Iraqi Parliament was late in playing its monitoring and auditing roles in holding officials accountable in the loss of public funds. The issue of no accountability for the ministers and other officials created a huge gap in the House of Representatives. The monitoring role played by the Parliament to disclose the disease of administrative corruption revealed a state critically serious that no one could help keep it as a secret.

ISCI Solutions Regarding Security Problems

-Continued from previous issue.

The Supreme Council has concluded that there are a number of factors and causes for the current security crises, which are detailed as below:

A) External Factors

Due to external factors, Iraq has become a focal point for various conflicts between a number of local and regional forces. The most important of these conflicts which play the largest role in weakening the internal security include the following:

- American forces battling al-Qaeda
- Conflict between American and other regional forces
- Inter-conflicts between parties and factions within the greater area
- Conflicts between the countries of the region, due to their differing agendas

B) Internal Factors

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Internally, we see that numerous political forces have attempted to use the security apparatus to achieve their specific political goals and agendas. Among the most important internal factors:

- Rivalries along party lines within the country, especially after changes made in the political map
- Sensitive low-security areas being turned over to al-Qaeda control
- The Ba'ath party resurfacing again and attempting to use its sole technique of violence and force to retrieve their political control
- A large number of citizens protesting against the political decisions made by the American forces in Iraq
- Patriotic feelings among many which leads them to reject any outside forces due to seeing them as being occupation forces
- Release from prison of a number of dangerous criminals
- Some of the political parties aiding and protecting certain terrorist groups

C) Governmental Factors

Another reason is the weakness in the structure of the government's security apparatus (army, police, intelligence, etc), which arises from the following:

- Poor preparation and training and equipping of the security apparatus, in contrast to the training and equipping seen with the terrorist groups
- Infiltration of al-Qaeda and the Ba'ath party into the security apparatus members, due to ineffective standards in place for hiring those members, and due to political parties using them to advance their own self-interests
- Weakness in the intelligence apparatus
- Weakness in the military leadership, again due to political causes
- Having numerous security agencies, without any harmony or congruence between them, as well as disharmony between American and Iraqi forces

Proposed Solutions

The general security crisis has therefore taken great importance in the consideration of the Supreme Council, and in their

communications with other governmental and political entities. The Supreme Council sees a number of possible solutions for this crisis:

I-Political Solutions:

- Implementation of the constitution, and restoring the presidency as a real and active agent, and a lawful recourse for the amelioration of strife and conflict, as well as being the only viable alternative to the politics of force and arms
- The importance of equal political participation for all in decision making
- Supporting the government as a lawful constitutional elected entity, receiving the participation of all or almost all political factions; and that a lack of support for the government will lead to anarchy and the balkanization of Iraq, turning it into a theater of terrorist and violent activity
- Reviving the project of national reform, as a means of attaining peaceful discourse between all sides, instead of using weapons and force
- Activation of the security apparatus of the government, forming sub-groups to tend to specific issues and coming up with real solutions to security problems
- Activation of the parliament and its subdivisions, so that they dialogue amongst themselves and become able to set a limit for the chaotic course of the national security
- Increasing pressure to the surrounding countries (using especially American forces) to have them stop providing support for terrorist activity.

II-Security Solutions:

- Quickly building up the armed security apparatus, and setting a deadline for their training and preparation
- The necessity of building up and completing the intelligence apparatus, especially the section dealing with combating terrorist activity, because Iraq must be the first to stand up against terrorism
- Re-examining the points of weakness and fixing any underlying problems in the current security apparatus
- The necessity to strike all terrorists with an iron hand, whether they come from the Saddamite regime, or from those other

groups that operate outside the law

-Confining all arms into the hands of the state, and putting a limit to the militarization of the citizenry, which has been bleeding economically, politically, and socially for a long time

-Gaining more control over the borders, and implementing the agreements with neighboring countries of the region to further serve the security interests of Iraq.

III-Economic and Social Solutions:

- The necessity of reviving the investment and rebuilding projects;
- Putting an end to unemployment, and providing further opportunities for work; and this is thru increasing investments and releasing the economy from the grip of the central government;
- Activating the organizations that focus on social security, such as those dealing with political prisoners, martyrs, emigrants, and so on, to help fund and protect the poor families left behind, and prevent al-Qaeda from using them for their ends;
- Calling on the citizenry in general to also play their role in maintaining national security, because this great disease of terrorism cannot be cured without help and support from the community;
- Rebuilding the gravesites of the two "Al-Askari" Imams (upon them be peace), as role models for the Sunni-Shi'i unity in Iraq, which is one of the main causes of rivalry in the country;
- The necessity of activating the judicial system, to put the criminals and terrorists under real judgment;
- Having more control over the media system, because it plays a big role in arousing the fires of inter-party strife, while there are other sections of the media (that deserve our support) which seek to further the struggle against financial and administrative corruption, and desire to protect the dignity of the Iraqi citizen and share the nation's wealth in an equitable manner.

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